



## Short Safety Subject

Short Safety Subjects are provided by the Public Safety Business Center, Fort Bragg, NC. Our intent is to provide safety topics for the purpose of increasing safety awareness and improving safety performance. Additional Short Safety Subjects are available on the PSBC Business Management Web Site at:

[www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm](http://www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm)

### Tire Safety



What can we do to get more mileage out of our tires and at the same time increase driving safety? The procedures are quite simple if we take the time necessary to have our tires checked on a regular basis.

#### **Don't under-inflate or overload your tires.**

Symptoms:

- Excessive wear on sides of tire tread.
- Cracks in tire sidewalls.
- Poor steering or drifting of vehicle.

Prevention:

- Buy a high-quality tire gauge to check your tires and keep it handy, for example in the glove compartment.
- Check tire pressure when tires are cool. Use the automobile manufacturer's recommended pressure.
- Check the pressure at least each month. If one tire is consistently lower than the other a slow leak is likely the cause.
- Don't count on visual inspection to determine if your tires are properly inflated.
- When checking tire pressure, don't forget the spare.

#### **Don't over inflate your tires.**

Symptoms:

- Excessive wear in middle section of tire tread.
- Abnormally hard ride.

Prevention:

- Inflate tire to manufacturer's recommended pressure.
- Check tread wear by visual inspection.

#### **Don't drive with wheels out of alignment or out of balance.**

Symptoms:

- Excessive wear in either side of tires.
- Tires show signs of scuffing on the edges
- Vehicle pulls to right or left.

**A shimmy in the steering wheel usually indicates that wheels are out of balance.**

Prevention:

- Avoid chuckholes.
- Don't bang the tires into curbs when parking.
- Inspect tire treads.
- Have wheels checked for alignment and balance.

**Some of the advantages of proper care are:**

- Longer tire mileage.
- More relaxed driving.
- Improved safety by reducing the chance of a tire failure and possible hydroplaning.

Properly-inflated tires and properly balanced and aligned wheels cause less friction and thus increase gasoline mileage. From the habit of periodically checking your tires for balance, alignment, pressure and wear. It will pay dividends in lower maintenance and operating costs, and in added driving safety.